



COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT

ON

The Medical Inspection of School Children,

For the Year ended 31st December, 1916.

ROCHDALE:

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Estimated Civil Population of Rochdale in 1916...	...	...	90,653
Number of Scholars on Register during 1916	...	...	14,231
Average Attendance (including half-timers) 1916	...	...	12,552
Number of Schools—Council	...	...	17
Non-provided...	...	...	12
			29
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Non-provided	...	...	18
			47
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Introductory.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit the Ninth Annual Report on the work of Medical Inspection of the School Children in Rochdale.

The compilation of this Report has been carried out chiefly by Dr. Hutchinson, who entered on duties here in November, 1916, and resigned in March, 1917.

His resignation was to be regretted, as he had made a special study of, and took a great interest in, the ailments and diseases of infants and school children.

The possession of such special qualifications is of supreme importance in the work of the medical inspection of school children. For without these it is possible for the medical inspection of school children to so deteriorate as to be performed in the most perfunctory manner and with little ultimate benefit to the school children.

Further, it has always to be kept in view that the true and ultimate value of medical inspection will be measured, not only by the provision made for the treatment of minor ailments and defects, but more especially by the establishment and effective administration of such constructive schemes as have for their purpose the wider questions of—(a) the prevention of diseases which are preventible in childhood ; (b) the sustained effort to secure an ever-improving environment for the school child.

By the adoption of such comprehensive measures, an endeavour is made to raise the general standard of health and well-being of the school children.

In this respect the advent and rapidly increasing number of open-air schools is eminently desirable. For there are many children who enter on life with some pre-disposition to chest disease, while others again are pre-disposed through an acute or prolonged or neglected attack of some infectious disease such as Measles or Whooping Cough. But it is no exaggeration to state that, if all such children were to receive their education in an open-air day school during the whole or greater part of the year, their powers of resistance to disease would be so increased as to prevent many such children from becoming the victims of incipient forms of Tuberculosis and other diseases, of which the serious and fatal effects may only appear in later or adult life.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health, and
Chief School Medical Officer.

TOWN HALL, ROCHDALE,
10th April, 1917.

SECTION I.

The general hygienic condition of the school buildings.

During the year 1916, in accordance with the desire expressed by the Government that public expenditure should be reduced as far as possible, very little has been done as regards building, or alterations to present buildings.

The only improvement carried out during the year has been to re-cover the surface of the Boys' playground at Baillie-street Council School. All new or proposed work is in abeyance until after the War.

SECTION II.

General survey of the scope of the work.

1.—Visits to Schools.

124 visits have been made to the 29 schools within the Borough by the Medical Inspector for the purpose of routine examination. To this number has to be added 24 special visits in connection with the control of infectious disease.

2.—The Children examined were selected as follows :—

A.—For Medical Inspection in School.

(a) Routine Cases.—Children admitted to school for the first time since the 1915 medical inspection, and those children who had reached the age of 12 years during the same period. These two groups of children are commonly known as "Entrants" and "Leavers."

(b) Special Cases.—Any other children in the school not included in the above two groups, who, in the opinion of the Head Teacher, required medical examination.

(c) Re-examination of children found defective at the previous inspection, to ascertain whether treatment had been obtained, and if so, its effect.

B.—For Medical Inspection, at the School Clinic.

(a) Children who were found to require further examination than could be carried out in school.

(b) Children referred for examination as to their fitness for school by either the teachers or School Attendance Officers, owing to absence through sickness or physical defects.

(c) Children treated at the School Clinic.

(d) Children referred to Dr. Harry for defective vision.

C.—For Inspection by School Nurses with regard to Cleanliness.

(a) All girls in attendance at Rochdale Schools.

(b) All boys presented by the teachers.

D.—For Dental inspection in school by the Dental Officer.

(a) Routine Cases.—All children who are of the age of six and seven whether in the mixed or infants departments.

(b) Special Cases.—Any children not already included in the above groups, who may or commonly do suffer from toothache, gumboils, swollen face, &c., and are in the opinion of the Head Teacher, urgent cases for examination.

3.—The Number of Children inspected in 1916.

A.—Seen at School.

During the year 4,099 children were examined in school. The relative numbers of Routine Cases, Special Cases and Re-examinations are shown in the following table, which also brings out the age and sex distribution of the Routine Cases.

TABLE I.
Number of Children seen at School for Medical Inspection.

ROUTINE CASES									Specials	Re-examined	Totals
AGE ...	3	4	5	6	7	12	13	Totals			
BOYS ...	104	175	320	62	15	760	23	1,459	414	252	2,125
GIRLS ...	96	186	328	51	6	736	14	1,417	374	183	1,974
TOTAL ...	200	361	648	113	21	1496	37	2,876	788	435	4,099

B.—Seen at the School Clinics.

2,676 children in all were examined at the School Clinics during 1916, as against 2,835 in the previous year: 1,055 at the Examination Clinic, 1,001 at the Treatment Clinic, and 528 at the Eye Clinic. The 1,055 children made 3,212 visits to the Examination Clinic and consisted in 978 with regard to their fit or unfitness to attend school and 77 for further examination than possibly could be carried out in their respective schools.

C.—Seen by School Nurses.

6,166 children were seen at school by the Nurses with regard to cleanliness. All the schools in the Borough were visited twice. In addition, a visit was paid to the schools for the purpose of examining the defaulters or neglected children and new admissions. 13,127 inspections have been made by the Nurses under this heading.

D.—Seen by Dental Officer (period of six months only).

2,011 children were examined at 16 schools by the Dental Officer—these all being children of 6 and 7 years of age. When advisable their parents were informed of any necessary treatment, which was then offered free.

4.—The Number of Inspections made during 1916.

21,821 inspections were made by the whole staff during 1916. With exception of visits of Nurses to children's homes and special visits to schools for the control of infectious disease, &c., this number was made up as follows:—

Number of Inspections by Medical Officer at School	...	...	...	4,099
„ „ Medical Officer at Examination Clinic	...	...	...	1,055
„ „ at Treatment Clinic	...	...	...	1,001
„ „ by Specialist at Eye Clinic	...	...	...	528
„ „ by Dental Officer at Schools (six months period only)	...	...	...	2,011
„ „ by School Nurses as to Cleanliness	...	...	...	13,127
Total Number of Inspections	...	...	...	21,821

5.—The relation of Medical Inspection to Parents.

That a sympathetic feeling is growing up among parents is shown by the continued diminution of the number of refusals and absentees, and also by the increase in the number of children brought by the parents to the School Clinics. The number of parents present at inspections still continues to be small.

VACCINATION.

As in previous years, at the routine examination note was taken of the number of children vaccinated. Of the 2,742 children seen 951 (34.6 per cent.) showed no vaccination marks.

In comparison with the figures for 1915 there is an increase of 1.6 per cent.

TABLE II.

	AGE LAST BIRTHDAY.										TOTAL	
	3		4		5		12		13			
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
Number Vaccinated ...	44	44	85	79	139	137	627	611	15	10	910 (65·8)	881 (64·7)
Number Examined ...	104	96	175	186	320	328	760	736	23	14	1382	1360
TOTAL ...	200 (44·0)		361 (45·4)		648 (42·5)		1496 (82·7)		37 (67·5)		2742 (65·3)	

Figures in brackets are percentages.

SECTION III.

- (a) Defects found during Routine Examination of "Entrants" and "Leavers."
- (b) Defects found during examination of 788 "Special" Cases.
- (c) Result of Re-examination of 435 Children previously found to have defects.

(a) DEFECTS FOUND BY ROUTINE EXAMINATION.

(See Appendix B.)

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR.

The clothing of 1.3 per cent. of the children examined was in an unsatisfactory condition, and 0.5 per cent. were insufficiently shod. The numbers were 42 boys and 10 girls.

MALNUTRITION.

There were 112 cases of malnutrition or 4.0 per cent. of the children examined. The number is slightly larger than last year, but very much less than the previous year—partly due to the fact that all such children were, by the Committee's decision, allowed, irrespective of income, to have free meals on the recommendation of the Medical Inspector.

CLEANLINESS.

16 out of the 2,742 children examined were found to present a very dirty condition of the body. These cases are all of a severe type, no note being made of slight cases, as every child, no matter how carefully kept, is liable to become dirty.

Of the children who were routine examined 123 or 4.4 per cent. had nits of the head. Some were also verminous and were immediately excluded from the school pending their proper cleansing.

The improvement in the condition of the children's heads continues, and the number of cases reported has been reduced from 62.8 per cent. in 1909 to 12.6 per cent. in 1916.

Briefly stated the percentages are :—

Year	1909	...	...	...	...	...	62.8	had	nits or vermin
,,	1911	...	...	...	...	...	31.4	,,	,,
,,	1913	...	...	...	...	...	23.6	,,	,,
,,	1914	...	...	...	...	...	17.1	,,	,,
,,	1915	...	...	...	...	...	14.4	,,	,,
,,	1916	...	...	...	...	...	12.6	,,	,,

With all this improvement certain families are always at fault, and they are gradually being dealt with under the Children's Act by exclusion from school and being reported to the attendance officers for following up.

TEETH.

As in all previous reports the defect which is the most common to all classes in Rochdale is dental caries. Could the medical inspector only see the teeth of the school children with the eye and knowledge of a fully-trained dental surgeon the numbers with defects must necessarily be greater. As it is in 1916, of the 2,742 children examined by routine inspection no less than 1,611 or 58.7 per cent. had one or more teeth carious. Compared with last year this is a decrease of 8.4 per cent.

Since the establishment, in 1914, of a Dental Clinic, it has been possible to examine the teeth of all children of 6 to 7, and to give the necessary treatment as "routine" treatment. Other treatment, namely that referred to as "special" was confined almost entirely to extraction in such cases as were selected by the teachers.

REPORT OF THE DENTAL OFFICER.

" This, the 3rd Annual Report of the inspection and treatment, is for a period of six months only, and includes the visiting of 16 schools and the inspection of 2,011 children, of whom 559 were reinspections.

" All the children submitted themselves willingly to inspection, which was carried out in one of the class rooms, or where such was available, in the teachers' room. Every assistance was given by the teachers, and the children were sent to the Clinic with unfailing regularity. The artificial light was not all that could be desired in some of the schools, and in one candle-light had to be used for the greater part of the inspection.

Children Inspected.

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Routine	528	486	1,014
Special	230	208	438
Re-examination ...	274	285	559
Totals	1,032	979	2,011

" The number of children with perfectly sound teeth is so deplorably small that practically every child requires treatment for several teeth. This prevalence of dental caries amongst the school children is undoubtedly due to a large extent to the improper feeding of infants and children. But it is to be hoped that there will be a gradual improvement in this respect through the educative influence of the Child Welfare Centres now established.

TABLE III.
Showing frequency of Caries.
(Stated in percentages).

	Boys		Girls	
	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent
Sound ...	76.4	86.8	64.2	86.9
Savable ...	15.2	12.4	15.3	12.6
Unsavable ...	18.2	0.6	20.4	0.3

“ In the above table there is a decided improvement in the number of sound teeth.

PERCENTAGES OF ABNORMALITIES.

	Boys	Girls
Irregular Teeth	13.6	16.7
Malocclusion or abnormal articulation	2.7	3.2
Hypoplastic or chalky Teeth	5.1	3.4
Rachitic Teeth	1.7	1.8
Hutchinson or Syphilitic Teeth	0.8	0.3

“ In many cases the unhealthy condition of the gums render inspection almost impossible, as the breath is offensive, the gums congested and hæmorrhagic, and invariably the patient is seriously ill. The following table gives the percentages of these conditions.

TABLE IV.
State of Gums and Teeth.

(Stated in percentages).

	GUMS			TEETH			TARTAR	
	Healthy	Inflamed	Septic	Clean	Fairly clean	Dirty	Some	Much
Boys	72.9	12.1	15.2	40.2	43.0	16.6	8.3	0.4
Girls	77.0	9.7	13.1	56.8	34.0	9.1	7.9	0.1

“ There is a decided increase under the heading sepsis of the gums. This is due to the inclusion of all abscessed teeth under the heading of ‘septic.’ The improvement in cleanliness of the teeth is marked, especially the girls.

“ JAS. HADDOW, L.D.S., R.F.P.S. (Glas.)”

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

297 children or 10.8 per cent., on inspection, were found to have so markedly enlarged tonsils as to necessitate treatment, preferably by removal. These figures again show an increase on those of 1915. An arrangement is in operation whereby these cases are treated at the local Infirmary.

EYE DISEASES, INCLUDING SQUINT.

156 children or 5.6 per cent., on examination, were found to be suffering from diseases of the eye. Of these, 126 suffered from conjunctivitis, an easily cured condition when taken early, but intractable if neglected, as is frequently the case, until the child is unable to bear the light.

30 children or 1.0 per cent. had very marked squint due to errors of refraction. All these cases were referred to Dr. Harry for treatment. Although free examination and advice is given some parents even yet will not allow their children to be examined, or if they permit it, often will not purchase the spectacles. In all cases where the income of the family is considered too low to expect payment, the necessary glasses are provided free. By such means the sight of the squinting eye is often preserved, or at least assisted to such an extent as to cure the squint.

VISION.

As in previous years, only the vision of 12 and 13 year old children was tested at routine examinations. 238 (15.5 per cent.) had distinctly bad vision out of 1,533 tested. The vision of 147 children was subnormal. All the 238 were offered treatment by Dr. Harry, whose report is included under Section IV.

The vision of each child is determined by the use of Snellen's test type, which is read by each eye separately. The type is so graduated that the size marked 6 can be read by a normal eye at 6 metres or 20 feet. The size of the letters vary up to those for 60 metres. It follows that the vision can be expressed as a fraction. The numerator being always six, the constant distance at which the type is read, and the denominator being the distance at which the smallest type the eye can read, should be read, *e.g.*, the normal eye is expressed as 6/6, but an eye which can see no smaller type than that normally legible at 18 metres is expressed as having vision 6/18.

The following comparative table brings out the contrasts between the boys and girls :—

Normal Vision, *i.e.*, 6/6 both eyes.

75.8 per cent. of the boys had normal vision.

71.2 „ „ girls „ „

Subnormal Vision, *i.e.*, either or both eyes below normal and yet not sufficiently defective to require treatment for the defect of itself.

9.9 per cent. of boys had vision of this class.

9.2 „ „ girls „ „

Bad Vision, *i.e.*, either or both eyes with vision 6/18 or less.

14.1 per cent. of the boys were so affected as against 19.6 of the girls.

DEFECTS OF THE EAR.

During the course of medical inspection 97.9 per cent. children were found to be normal. The remainder suffered from either discharging ears or else obstruction due to wax.

DISEASES OF THE HEART AND LUNGS (other than Tuberculosis).

Heart.

65 children or 2.3 per cent. were found on examination to be suffering from heart disease of varying degree ; in all severe cases the child was excluded from exercise and drill, and the parent warned as to the condition ; in milder cases, the drills were regulated and the parent warned and asked to keep the child under observation at the Inspection Clinic.

Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh.

86 children were found to be suffering from these conditions.

TUBERCULOSIS.

8 children (0.21 per cent.) were found to be suffering from Phthisis.

During 1916 the following notifications of Tuberculosis amongst children of school age were received :—

22 notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ; and

39 as suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

These latter were subdivided as follows :—

17 cases of Tuberculosis of Glands in the neck ;

6 cases of Tuberculosis of the Abdomen ;

9 cases of Tubercular disease of bone ; and

7 cases of diseases of other parts of the body.

The total number of notifications during 1916 was :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	200
Surgical Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	89

Thus the incidence amongst children of school age is :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11 per cent. of all cases notified
Surgical Tuberculosis	...	...	...	43.8 „ „ „

The high proportion of cases of Surgical Tuberculosis is accounted for by the fact that this type of tuberculosis is essentially a disease of child life, and most authorities are agreed that it is disseminated by infected milk. All Tuberculous cases are referred to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for further examination, and if necessary, treatment.

Open-air treatment is now, as everyone knows, the essential treatment for Tuberculosis, and especially for pre-Tubercular children. For the provision of this treatment, open-air schools have now been widely established and have proved a very decided success. Most authorities consider that it is more economic to prevent as far as possible Tuberculosis in the child than to endeavour to cure Tuberculosis in the adult.

RICKETS AND RICKETY DEFORMITIES.

146 children or 5.3 per cent. of the total number examined suffered or had suffered from Rickets.

140 cases that had resulted in severe degrees of “ bow-legs ” or “ knock-knee ” were referred to local charities for treatment.

There is no doubt that the Child Welfare Centres recently established in the town, together with the work of the Health Visitors, will in time materially reduce the incidence of Rickets, as it is purely a question of proper feeding and attention to hygiene during the period of infancy.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

A special examination of the mentally defective children attending Rochdale schools was carried out during 1915, and the results embodied in last year's report.

The figures vary so slightly from year to year that the results tabulated in that report may be taken as approximately correct for this year, 1916.

Arrangements are in force whereby suitable cases are admitted to the Sandlebridge Colony for Mental Defectives, Cheshire.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

The arrangements for dealing with children requiring special education and treatment are as follows :—

Epileptic Children are sent to the Soss Moss Residential School, under an agreement with the Manchester Education Committee.

Blind Children are sent to (a) the School for the Blind, Wavertree ; (b) the Roman Catholic School for the Blind, Liverpool.

Deaf and Dumb Children are sent to (a) the Royal Schools for the Deaf and Dumb, Old Trafford ; (b) St. John's Institute, Boston Spa, Yorks.

DEFECTIVE SPEECH.

13 children had defects in speech. Of these 3 were stammerers, and were noted as fit for special treatment in a Stammerers' Class. There were only 10 children with defective articulation. At the present time the class for stammerers is not being held, as owing to the shortage of teachers the services of the special teacher cannot be spared. The fact, however, that the Committee do possess a medically qualified teacher, and that there are children who would benefit under her tuition, should not be lost sight of.

DEFORMITIES OTHER THAN RICKETY DEFORMITIES.

34 children (1.2 per cent.) suffered from the following deformities, and their parents in all cases were seen and informed of the necessary treatment :—

Spinal Curvature (lateral)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 cases
Cleft Palate	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
Wry Neck	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
Other Forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	26 „

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

The average heights and weights of the children weighed during 1916 are given in the following Table, together with the averages for 1908-10-11-12-13-14-15 inclusive, for the purpose of comparison.

TABLE V.

	CHILDREN 5—6 YEARS OF AGE				CHILDREN 12—13 YEARS OF AGE			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	Height (inches)	Weight (lbs.)	Height (inches)	Weight (lbs.)	Height (inches)	Weight (lbs.)	Height (inches)	Weight (lbs.)
Av. for 1908-1910 incl.	40·62	38·89	39·9	36·64	53·82	70·11	54·29	71·06
Averages for 1911.....	40·59	38·8	40·75	38·15	53·90	70·05	54·15	70·80
Averages for 1912.....	40·65	37·5	40·54	38·8	54·75	70·5	54·88	70·1
Averages for 1913.....	40·65	38·4	40·15	36·6	53·90	70·5	54·37	71·4
Averages for 1914.....	40·25	38·59	40·20	37·59	53·49	69·57	55·12	70·35
Averages for 1915.....	40·93	37·25	40·27	35·30	54·40	69·68	54·25	70·02
Averages for 1916.....	41·15	38·15	39·9	38·8	54·15	70·55	54·00	69·68

(b) DEFECTS FOUND AMONGST THE “ SPECIAL ” CASES.

This group comprises all children attending school not included amongst the “ entrants ” and “ leavers,” who, in the opinion of the Head Teacher, require medical inspection. The inspection of “ specials ” is of primary importance. Apart from the obvious gain which ought to result from the treatment of the defects discovered, the examination of these children ensures that pressure can with more certainty be put upon the parents who habitually keep their children from school without adequate reason.

788 “ Specials ” were presented for examination during the year, and of these 764 were found to be suffering from some condition or defect requiring medical attention (See Appendix B).

SECTION IV.

Review of the methods available for the prevention and treatment of disease.

Under this heading fall (a) The Work of the School Nurses ; (b) The Work of the School Clinic ; (c) The Feeding of School Children ; (d) Physical Training ; (e) The Control of the Spread of Infectious Disease in Elementary Schools.

(a) THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES.

In connection with the Head Cleansing and Home Visiting of the children the work of the School Nurses cannot be overestimated. The continued improvement shown by the appended table speaks for the enthusiasm and energy, and also for the hearty co-operation between Teachers and Nurses in what is at the best up-hill and disheartening work. Once more by referring old offenders to the Medical Inspector and by exclusion until the child is cleansed, it has been possible to assist this work.

Head Cleansing.

The School Nurses have visited all schools within the area thrice during 1916, on two occasions seeing all children, while on the third occasion only those who had been found to offend in this direction and new admissions were seen.

The Nurses have to their credit, therefore, 13,127 inspections, of whom 138 verminous children were followed up, and, as a result, the condition improved.

TABLE VI.

Personal Cleanliness as found by School Nurses at the Inspections of all the Girls in each School.

1916	Number of girls examined	Number Clean.	Number Verminous and Nitty	Number of Cards sent	Number of Homes Visited
1st Inspection	6,166	5,339 (86.5)	827 (13.4)	564	102
Re-exams and Admissions : 2nd Inspection	927	616	311	260	35
3rd Inspection	6,034	5,315 (88.0)	719 (11.9)	501	55

Numbers in brackets are percentages.

The gain in cleanliness shown by the figures for the last seven years is as follows :—

Year	1909	...	...	62.8	per cent.	had nits or vermin,	and	37.2	per cent.	were clean
„	1910	...	...	44.3	„	„	„	55.7	„	„
„	1911	...	...	31.4	„	„	„	68.6	„	„
„	1912	...	...	27.0	„	„	„	73.0	„	„
„	1913	...	...	23.6	„	„	„	76.3	„	„
„	1914	...	...	17.1	„	„	„	82.8	„	„
„	1915	...	...	14.4	„	„	„	85.5	„	„
„	1916	...	...	12.6	„	„	„	87.3	„	„

and when it is mentioned that the standard of cleanliness is considerably higher now than in 1909 (probably from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. higher) it will be seen that there is all the more reason for congratulation.

Home Visits.

1,044 homes have been visited by the Nurses during the year for the purpose of making more effective the work of medical inspection. The Nurses explain the necessity of obtaining medical advice, stimulate the parents to greater cleanliness, and also assist and advise the mother, when domestic attention rather than medical treatment is required. Of the 1,044 visits made

192	were concerning	Dirty Heads
30	„	Contagious Skin Diseases
546	„	Defects discovered at inspection
276	„	Infectious Diseases

(b) THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

The School Clinic includes the Inspection Clinic, the Eye Clinic, the Treatment Clinic, and the Dental Clinic.

Hours of Attendance.

The Inspection Clinic is held from 2 to 4 o'clock every Monday afternoon on which the schools are open, and during these hours the Doctor, assisted by one of the Nurses, is in attendance.

The Eye Clinic is held every Friday afternoon, from 2 to 5 o'clock, and is conducted by Dr. Harry, the Eye Specialist, who is assisted by the second School Nurse.

The Treatment Clinic has been held every week-day morning, at 9 o'clock, and the work of treatment is carried out by the two School Nurses, under the supervision of the School Doctor.

The Dental Clinic is held daily, except Sunday and Monday. The latter day is utilised for School Inspection by the Dental Officer, and thereby allows of the common waiting room being used on that day for children and parents attending the Inspection Clinic. The hours for treatment are from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. Treatment at the Dental Clinic has been considerably interfered with owing to the lack of a third School Nurse.

THE WORK DONE AT THE INSPECTION CLINIC.

The Inspection Clinic has been established for the following purposes :—

- (a) The examination of children as to their fitness for school, or as to their fitness to undertake physical exercises, swimming, &c.
- (b) For the further examination of scholars referred to the Doctor from the School Inspection.
- (c) The supervision of children suffering from infectious diseases and of “ Contacts.”
- (d) The periodic supervision of Phthisis.
- (e) The examination of candidates for admission to Special Schools, *i.e.*, Industrial, for Deaf and Dumb, Mentally Defective, &c.

During 1916, 1,055 children attended the Inspection Clinic, and made 3,212 visits. 77 were cases referred for such further examination as could not be carried out at school. The remaining 978 children seen at the Clinic were sent by Nurses, Teachers and Attendance Officers, and many were brought voluntarily by parents.

The following are the diseases from which these children suffered :—

Ringworm	...	...	...	96 cases	Other Skin Diseases	...	21 cases
Eczema	...	...	...	6 „	External Eye Diseases	...	43 „
Impetigo	...	...	...	110 „	Defective Vision	...	118 „
Scabies	...	...	...	24 „	Other Diseases	...	350 „
Vermin and Nits	...	...	...	117 „			
Infectious Disease and Infectious Disease Contacts					...	...	170 „

THE WORK DONE AT THE EYE CLINIC.

553 children were referred for further examination to Dr. Harry, and of these 25 did not put in an appearance. Of the 528 actually examined by Dr. Harry, 502 did and 26 did not require treatment either because their glasses were suitable or because they suffered from defects other than refraction. The 25 who did not come were followed up and a goodly proportion have since received treatment or agreed to accept it in due course.

TABLE VII.
Age Summary of Eye Cases.

	AGE LAST BIRTHDAY.													TOTAL
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Number examined ...	...	...	28	25	46	60	57	61	87	149	12	3	...	528

As was to be expected from the fact that only the “ leavers ” had their vision tested at the routine examination, the largest number requiring spectacles occurs amongst the 12 year old children. All the cases below 12 requiring spectacles were presented by the teachers as “ special ” cases, and the selection of such a large number of cases (representing probably the majority of cases of defective vision in the rest of the school) reflects great credit on the observance of the teachers.

In the following table are classified the particular defects of vision discovered by Dr. Harry.

TABLE VIII.
Defects found amongst the Eye Cases examined by Dr. Harry.

DEFECTS	AGE AND SEX						All Ages of each sex		TOTAL
	3 and 4 years		5 to 9 years		10 to 13 years				
I.—REFRACTION ERRORS—	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Hypermetropia	...	...	53	54	64	51	117	105	222
Myopia	...	...	4	9	6	16	10	25	35
Simple and Compound Hyper- metropic Astigmatism.....	...	...	36	46	57	74	93	120	213
Simple and Compound Myopic Astigmatism	...	...	6	2	10	9	16	11	27
Mixed Astigmatism	...	...	1	2	12	11	13	13	26
Total Number with Refraction Errors	...	...	100	113	149	161	249	274	523
Other Diseases							5		

DR. HARRY’S REPORT.

“ During the period covered by the report 528 children were examined and glasses ordered for 523. In the remaining 5 the defect could not be improved by glasses, and suitable advice was given to the parents. When the child is old enough to work half-time the guardians are usually ready to procure glasses to correct any defect present, often after it is too late to get good results. An endeavour is made to impress upon them the hereditary character of certain conditions, *e.g.*, short-sight, squint, astigmatism, etc., and the necessity for early treatment. Glasses produce more satisfactory results the earlier the child commences to wear them.

“ PHILIP A. HARRY, M.D., D.P.H.”

THE TREATMENT CLINIC.

This Clinic was established in March, 1912, for the treatment of Ringworm, Impetigo, Itch, External Eye Diseases, Running Ears, etc., all of which conditions interfere to such a large extent with school attendance, most of which are communicable to other children.

The cases have been selected by the Doctor, Nurses, and Teachers, the final selection in each case being made by the Doctor. Only necessitous cases and those likely to benefit by treatment have been admitted to the clinic.

During 1916, 1,001 children, who paid 10,814 visits to the Clinic, were treated. 919 were cured. The numbers seen each month were as follows :—

TABLE IX.

Month	No. of New Cases	No. of Visits	No. discharged
January	62	563	59
February	78	1,081	40
March	131	1,272	119
April	105	1,023	95
May	109	1,104	90
June	66	975	82
July	61	779	49
August	82	758	112
September	46	494	37
October	46	618	39
November	155	1,505	133
December	60	642	64
	1,001	10,814	919

The diseases for which the children received treatment were :—

Impetigo	237
Eczema	53
Running Ears	44
Inflamed Eyelids, &c.	271
Ringworm	86
Septic Wounds, Ulcers, &c.	239
Other Ailments	29
Wax in Ears	42

The Clinic has worked smoothly, with little or no conflict with any of the medical men in the district.

DENTAL CLINIC.

The Dental Clinic has been carried on as reported in 1915.

The acceptance of treatment has fallen off slightly, and can only be accounted for by the number of parents and guardians who have returned to work during the present crisis, and are therefore unable to accompany their children.

The assistance of a Nurse is essential, to attend to the children, help with the clerical work and be present during the administration of nitrous oxide.

Subjoined is the return of work done at the Clinic :—

TABLE X.

		Number Treated	Attendance Total	EXTRACTIONS						DRESSINGS			FILLINGS			
				Temporary		Permanent		Nitrous Oxide		Temporary	Permanent	Scaling	Temporary		Permanent	
				Simple	With Local Anæsthesia	Simple	With Local Anæsthesia	Administra-tions	Teeth				Cement	Amalgam	Cement	Amalgam
“ ROUTINE ” CASES	Boys ...	330	334	329	506	...	4	5	11	831	139	18	7	242	7	222
	Girls ...	301	307	305	445	1	...	1	4	887	144	45	18	240	19	180
“ Routine ” Totals		631	641	634	951	1	4	6	15	1918	283	63	25	482	26	402
“ SPECIAL ” CASES	Boys ...	286	329	328	246	11	97	13	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Girls ...	372	446	371	246	11	145	12	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
“ Special ” Total		658	775	699	492	22	242	25	73	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL ...		1289	1416	1333	1443	23	246	31	88	1918	283	63	25	482	26	402

(c) **PROVISION OF MEALS.**

The Board of Education having placed the general supervision of this branch of the work in the hands of the School Medical Department, it is now the duty of the School Medical Officer to report annually on the work undertaken in connection with the provision of meals for school children.

Number of meals supplied to children during 1916 :—

						Average Attend- ances per day		Dinners
January ...	...	...	...	...	...	52	...	1,506
February ...	...	...	...	...	...	48	...	1,154
March ...	...	...	...	...	...	54	...	1,300
April ...	...	...	...	...	...	41	...	1,230
May ...	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	1,088
June ...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	1,090
July ...	...	...	...	...	...	53	...	1,439
August ...	...	...	...	...	...	53	...	848
September ...	...	...	...	...	...	54	...	1,464
October ...	...	...	...	...	...	59	...	1,499
November ...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	1,113
December...	...	...	...	...	...	47	...	1,284
TOTAL					...	605	...	15,015

Owing to the high cost of living the Committee have increased the amount paid per head per meal.

(d) **PHYSICAL TRAINING.**

Two specially qualified instructors are employed to visit the Schools in rotation. At the present time the work is somewhat curtailed owing to the absence of one of them on Military Service. In all the Schools special breathing exercises are practised daily. These are of great value from the point of view of checking and preventing the growth of adenoid tissue and in increasing the respiratory capacity of the chest.

(e) **THE CONTROL OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

During 1916 the following were the number of the chief infectious diseases notified :—

Scarlatina ...	...	...	41 cases	Measles ...	...	...	2286 cases
Diphtheria ...	...	...	148 „	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	91 „
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	159 „				

The figures for Diphtheria, Scarlatina and Measles are correct, as they are compulsorily notifiable diseases, but the figures for the remainder are only approximate, being derived from the returns made by the School Teachers. This is the first year during which Measles has been compulsorily notifiable, hence the large number of cases reported.

Scarlatina.—Only 41 cases of Scarlatina were notified, a very considerable reduction upon the number notified during 1915 (108).

Diphtheria.—Following upon the epidemic of last year, there was, as was to be expected, a marked reduction in the number of cases of this disease.

Chicken-pox.—159 cases were notified by the School Teachers during 1916, whereas 336 cases were notified during 1915.

Whooping Cough.—The incidence of Whooping Cough was considerably less than last year, 91 cases were reported, against 155 cases last year.

Measles.—2,286 cases were notified. Now that this disease is compulsorily notifiable, this number may be taken as correct.

The large number of cases notified gives some idea of the grave menace to child life constituted by this disease—not because it is a serious disease in itself, but because of the very dangerous sequelæ (Broncho-pneumonia, Bronchitis, Acute Otorrhoea, &c.) it is apt to give rise to. Parents and guardians treat an attack of Measles altogether too lightly. It is a dangerous disease, and should be treated as such.

The disease was very prevalent at the beginning of the year, and as a consequence the Infants Departments in 17 of the schools had to be closed for varying periods. Subjoined is a list of such closures.

SCHOOLS CLOSURE, 1916.

Name of School				Closed for		Date		
Oakenrod Infant Dept.	...	Measles	...	From Jan. 25th to Feb. 2nd, 1916	(6 days)			
„ „ „	...	„	...	„ Feb. 3rd to Feb. 14th	(7 days)			
„ „ „	...	„	...	„ Feb. 15th to Feb. 28th	(9 days)			
Spotland C.E. Infant Dept.		„	...	„ Jan. 25th to Feb. 2nd	(6 days)			
„ „ „	...	„	...	„ Feb. 2nd to Feb. 7th	(3 days)			
„ „ „	...	„	...	„ Feb. 15th to Feb. 28th	(9 days)			
Cronkeyshaw Infant Dept.	...	„	...	„ Feb. 2nd to Feb. 14th	(8 days)			
St. Alban's C.E. Infant Dept.		„	...	„ Feb. 15th to Feb. 28th	(9 days)			
Derby-street Infant Dept.	...	„	...	„ March 3rd to March 20th	(11 days)			
Meanwood	...	„	...	„ March 17th to April 3rd	(11 days)			
Castleton C.S.	...	„	...	„ March 17th to April 3rd	(11 days)			
St. Edward's Infant Dept.	...	„	...	„ March 29th to April 10th	(8 days)			
St. Gabriel's, C'ton.	„	„	...	„ March 29th to April 10th	(8 days)			
Halifax-road Infant Dept.	...	„	...	„ March 29th to April 10th	(8 days)			
Children under 5 years excluded attending Hey- brook Junior School	...	„	...	„ April 4th to April 17th	(9 days)			
Newbold C.S. Infant Dept.	...	„	...	„ April 7th to April 17th	(6 days)			
All Saints' Infant Dept.	...	„	...	„ April 7th to April 17th	(6 days)			
St. James', Thornham Infant Dept.		„	...	„ April 14th until after Easter holidays	(5 days)			
Brimrod C.S. Infant Dept.	...	„	...	„ „ „	„ „ „			
Penn-street	...	„	...	„ „ „	„ „ „			
Healey C.E. Infant Dept.	...	„	...	„ „ „	„ „ „			

SECTION V.**Teachers examined in 1916.****Uncertified Teachers.**

One lady candidate was examined during the year and she was accepted subject to attention to teeth.

Pupil Teachers.

18 candidates were examined with the results indicated in the subjoined table.

TABLE XI.

AGE	Number examined		Accepted unreserv- edly		Accepted, subject to attention to :—								Total Number accepted	
					Teeth		Eyesight		Vaccination					
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		
16	...	14	...	4	...	8	...	3	...	6	...	14		
17	...	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	4		
TOTAL ...	18		5		9		3		8		18			

In conclusion we would add that the School Nurses, by their unceasing energy and industry, have rendered great and valuable assistance both during the year and in the preparation of this report.

The assistance of the Teaching Staff at the various Schools has been most valuable, and especially so in referring suspected cases of infectious disease to the School Clinic.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. Holden and his Staff, for the assistance they have at all times rendered.

H. F. HUTCHINSON,

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

TOWN HALL,
ROCHDALE,
28th April, 1917.

APPENDIX (A.)

Showing number of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary, and result of such treatment.

Condition	No. of Defects found for which treatment was considered necessary			No. of Defects treated	Results of Treatment			No. of Defects not treated	Percentage of Defects treated
	From previous year	New	Total		Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Footgear	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleanliness of Head	1	1	2	4	2	2	1	1	80·
Cleanliness of Body	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nutrition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nose and Throat	161	479	640	74	37	82	180	225	24·7
External Eye Disease	...	3	3	2	2	...	...	...	100·
Ear Disease	14	19	33	27	11	19	15	18	60·
Teeth	19	120	139	21	13	10	18	20	51·2
Heart and Circulation	...	1	1	3	1	3	4	5	37·5
Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nervous System	...	1	1	2	1	1	...	...	100·
Skin	...	...	...	4	4	1	...	1	80·
Rickets	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	0·
Deformities	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	0·
Tuberculosis—Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Speech ... [see]	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vision and Squint	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hearing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	1	9	10	1	1	...	1	1	50·
TOTAL	198	633	831	138	72	118	221	273	...

APPENDIX (B).

Detailed Return showing the Age and Sex Distribution of the Physical Condition of Children Inspected.

Condition	Entrants			Leavers			Total			Specials		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent.	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent.	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent.
Total Inspected	599	610	1209		783	750	1533		1382	1360	2742	
Clothing	586	600	1186	98.0	769	747	1516	98.8	1355	1347	2702	98.5
Footgear	13	10	23	1.9	14	3	17	1.1	27	13	40	1.4
Cleanliness of Head	595	610	1205	99.6	772	750	1522	99.2	1367	1360	2727	99.4
	4	...	4	0.3	11	...	11	0.7	15	...	15	0.5
Cleanliness of Body	598	571	1169	96.6	781	670	1450	94.5	1379	1241	2620	95.5
	1	39	40	3.3	2	80	82	5.3	3	119	122	4.4
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	593	605	1198	99.0	778	750	1528	99.6	1371	1355	2726	99.4
	6	5	11	0.9	5	...	5	0.3	11	5	16	0.5
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nutrition	45	34	79	6.5	80	75	155	10.1	125	109	234	8.5
	544	565	1109	91.0	663	624	1287	83.9	1207	1189	2396	87.3
	10	11	21	1.6	40	51	91	5.9	50	62	112	4.0
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nose and Throat	213	233	446	36.7	482	434	916	59.7	695	667	1362	49.6
	92	82	174	14.3	49	26	75	4.8	141	108	249	9.0
	151	158	309	25.7	147	152	299	19.5	298	310	608	22.1
	75	76	151	12.4	53	93	146	9.5	128	169	297	10.8
	46	39	85	7.0	30	36	66	4.3	76	75	151	5.5
	22	22	44	3.6	22	19	41	2.6	44	41	85	3.0
External Eye Diseases	556	570	1126	93.1	763	727	1490	97.1	1319	1298	2617	95.4
	36	37	73	6.0	19	19	38	2.4	55	56	111	4.0
	4	2	6	0.4	...	2	2	0.1	4	4	8	0.2
	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0.06	...	1	1	0.03
	3	1	4	0.3	1	1	2	0.1	4	2	6	0.2
Ear Diseases	580	600	1180	97.6	737	734	1471	95.9	1317	1334	2651	96.6
	7	4	11	0.9	19	7	26	1.6	26	11	37	2.4
	8	4	12	0.9	22	7	29	1.8	30	11	41	1.3
	1	1	2	0.1	3	1	4	0.2	4	2	6	0.2
	3	1	4	0.3	2	1	3	0.1	5	2	7	0.2
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

